



January 18, 2021

Dear Families,

Children's Kiva Montessori Charter School is a small community of learners, families and teachers. Small, and mighty. Our size during the COVID-19 crisis has given us the advantage of being nimble and personal, providing customized and individualized educational experiences for students and families.

Two things are happening that we are working to balance: An upward trend in the COVID-19 Positive Rate in the community and a school community that has differing comfort levels with in-person and distance learning.

Over the last week, we reached out to families about their comfort in returning to school in-person or in a distance learning mode. What we learned is that while the majority of families are ready to return to in-person learning, a large minority are not. The staff also has differing comfort levels at this time.

In other words, one size does not fit all.

In an attempt to provide **choice** to as many families and staff as possible and remain consistent with our Return to Learn Plan, we will continue with three basic approaches to learning: In Person Learning, Kiva Online Learning Only (KOLO) and Colorado Digital Learning Solutions.

But we will have to make adjustments to staffing to support choices for families. This will take time.

As such, February 1 will be the date which we begin In-Person Learning and provide expanded Online Only Learning (KOLO). **Until that time, your child will remain in Distance Learning Mode with the same schedule they have now.**

To provide additional time to plan and coordinate a clean handoff and start up, there will **be no school on January 29.**

The administration office will communicate with you directly to ensure you know where your child should be on February 1 and if there have been any changes to the staffing of your child's classroom.

In the meantime, Kiva is closely monitoring the health conditions in our community and has developed a framework for returning safely to school, which can be found by clicking [here](#). The school's baseline for returning to in-person learning is a two-week downward trend of COVID-19 positivity in Montezuma County and a positive rate below 10%, or hospitalization rates below 36-44/100,000 within the last two weeks.



As of Friday, January 15, the positive rate is 11.5% and the two-week trend is upward. But, 10 days ago, the trend was downward and below 10%: things can turn around quickly. The hospitalizations per 100,000 on January 1 was 27.41. (The data is updated two weeks behind the date).

Here's what you need to know now about each mode of operation that starts February 1.

- In-person Learning (IPL)
  - IPL students attend school in their regular classroom at 601 N. Mildred. Some classroom teachers have changed and you will be informed of this change later this week.
  - If a classroom or the whole school must quarantine, IPL Students will stay with their homeroom in an online learning situation.
  - If a small group, or one IPL student must quarantine, the home-room teacher will provide at-home assignments to these students.
- Kiva Online Learning Only (KOLO)
  - KOLO students attend school following the Kiva Academic Calendar. Attendance will be taken each day.
  - KOLO students may move to their In-person Learning classrooms when/if they feel comfortable with community health conditions.
  - Once KOLO families have opted into an In-person classroom, they may not move back out.
  - The status of the KOLO program will be reassessed in March, with the possibility of returning to the classroom in April. Families will be notified of changes, if any, in mid March and there will be an opportunity for public input at Return to Learn Committee meetings. Dates of these meetings will be posted on Facebook and via email.
- Colorado Digital Learning Services (CDLS)
  - There is **no change** for CDLS.
  - CDLS students attend school every day online. There will be class every day and attendance will be taken.
  - CDLS students may move to their classrooms when/if they feel comfortable with community health conditions.

It seems that the only constant this year is change. I appreciate all you are doing to manage that change with us and in your lives. Should you have questions or concerns, I can be reached at [headofschool@kivacharter.org](mailto:headofschool@kivacharter.org) or 970-564-9377.

Best regards,



Jeffrey Pope

Head of School



FAQ:

Q: When will In-person learning begin?

A: February 1

Q: I'm not ready for In-person learning for my student. Whom do I contact?

A: Kiva Admin Staff has already reached out to you. If you have changed your position since then, please call the administrative office by January 20 at 3pm.

Q: My student is enrolled in Colorado Digital Learning Services. Does anything change for us?

A: No

Q: My student is enrolled in Colorado Digital Learning Services (CDLS). Can they come back to the classroom for In-person learning?

A: Yes. But they may not return to CDLS once they have dropped.

Q: My student is currently or will soon be a Kiva Online Learning Only (KOLO) student who is taught by a Kiva teacher. Can we migrate to In-person learning later?

A: Yes. But they may not return to KOLO once they have moved.

Q: How do I find out if my child is getting a different teacher?

A: The admin office will communicate this to you if there is a change by January 22.

Q: What are the health and safety measures the school will take to mitigate risk for In-person learning?

A:

1. All children will be required to wear a mask,
2. Parents will be required to do an at-home screening
3. A second screening will be done upon entry to the school
4. Classrooms will be cohorted (i.e. separated) from other classrooms
5. Students will wash hands no less than four times per day
6. The Ventilation system has been upgraded to treat the air with UV light
7. Rapid testing is available for teachers and students